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News Release

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Red Lake man pleads guilty to sexual abuse, failing to register as a sex offender

A 27-year-old Red Lake man pled guilty yesterday in federal court to sexually abusing a woman physically unable to defend herself. Jeremy Charles Wind also pled guilty to failing to register as a sex offender. Appearing before United States District Court Judge David S. Doty in Minneapolis, Jeremy Charles Wind specifically pled guilty to one count of sexual abuse and one count of failing to register as a sex offender. He was indicted on August 11, 2009.

As to the charge of sexual abuse, Wind admitted entering the victim's bedroom on May 22, 2009, and proceeding to have sex with her, knowing she was incapable of declining participation or communicating unwillingness to engage in the sexual act. In addition, Wind admitted that from October 2008 to May 2009, he was not properly registered as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. Wind, a Tier II offender, has two previous convictions for fifth-degree criminal sexual conduct. His first conviction occurred in 2000, when he was 17. Wind was convicted again in 2006.

Wind had been registering as a sex offender since his conviction in 2000. However, he failed to inform the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension of his change of residence in 2008, when he moved to the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Such notification is required under the law.

Wind faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on the charge of sexual abuse and 10 years in prison for failure to register as a sex offender. Judge Doty will determine his sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Red Lake Tribal Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tricia A. Tingle.

The federal government has primary law enforcement jurisdiction over the Red Lake Indian Reservation.